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Title: Reported decision of the Government to phase out Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPMA) 1987.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): No, Sir. I am ready.

Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious situation arising out of a reported decision by the Government that the Government is going to phase out the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987.[MSOffice3]

Sir, you know that jute industry is one of the major industries in our eastern India and about 40 lakh jute growers are involved in that and about more than two lakh workers are there in the industry. This is the most environment-friendly industry now. But, because of this plastic lobby, there is a continuous pressure on the Government to replace the jute bags by the plastic bags. All over the world, the environment-friendly decisions are being taken by the Government and movements are on, on this matter. But, here, if the Government takes a decision to phase out this Act and then replace the jute bags by the plastic bags, it will be a bad day for the jute industry and lakhs of jute growers.

I would request the Government not to take such a decision. Earlier, such decisions were considered but because of our demand and the Government intervention it was not taken. But now, it is again reported that the Government is thinking of phasing out of that Act. So, I would request the Government not to take such a decision in the interest of the jute industry, jute growers and jute workers and because of its environment-friendly nature. Thank you, Sir.